

CLAIMS

What is Claimed is:

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1. In a broadcasting system having a plurality of service networks, each
broadcasting a set of programs and program guide information describing at least a
portion of the set of programs, a method for presenting a program guide to a subscriber,
comprising the steps of:
determining a receiver station configuration;
receiving a first program guide information at the receiver station, the first
program guide information comprising a default transmitting network identifier value
uniquely identifying the service network transmitting the first program guide information;
and
generating a first program guide from the first program guide information and
presenting the first program guide, according to a comparison between the determined
receiving station configuration and the default transmitting network identifier.
 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of determining the receiving
station configuration comprises the steps of:
presenting a plurality of configurations to the subscriber;
accepting a selection of configurations from among the plurality of presented
configurations; and
determining the receiving station configuration according to the selected
configuration.
 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein receiving station comprises at least one
converter communicatively coupled to a receiver and the step of determining a receiving
station configuration comprises the steps of:
determining a number of converters; and
determining the receiving station configuration according to the number of
converters.

1 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of determining a receiving
2 station configuration comprises the steps of:
3 receiving a message from the broadcasting system indicating the receiving station
4 configuration.

1 5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of presenting the first program
2 guide according to a comparison between the determined receiving station configuration
3 comprises the steps of:
4 comparing the determined receiving station configuration with the default
5 transmitting identifier; and
6 presenting the first program guide to the subscriber only if the receiving station
7 configuration indicates that the receiving station is configured to receive signals from the
8 first service network.

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1 6. The method of Claim 1, wherein each of the programs in the first set of
2 programs is associated with a viewer channel, and the first program guide information
3 further comprises a transmitting network identifier associated with the viewer channel,
4 the transmitting network identifier value identifying a service network from among the
5 plurality of service networks transmitting the program associated with the viewer channel,
6 and the step of presenting the first program guide according to a comparison between the
7 determined receiving station configuration and the default transmitting network identifier
8 comprises the steps of:

9 (a) comparing the determined receiving station configuration and the default
10 transmitting network identifier;

11 (b) comparing the determined receiver configuration and the transmitting
12 network identifier; and

13 (c) generating the a first program guide from the first program guide
14 information and presenting the first program guide, according to the comparison between
15 the determined receiving station configuration and the default transmitting network
16 identifier, and the comparison between the determined receiving station and the
17 transmitting network identifier.

1 7. The method of Claim 6, wherein steps (b) and (c) are performed only when
2 the comparison between the determined receiver configuration and the default
3 transmitting network identifier indicates that the receiving station is configured to receive
4 signals from the first service network.

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1 8. A receiver station for use in a broadcasting system having a plurality of
2 service networks, each broadcasting a set of programs and program guide information
3 describing at least a portion of the set of programs, the program guide subsystem for
4 providing a first program guide to a subscriber distinguishable as originating from a first
5 service network in the broadcasting system, comprising:

6 an antenna, comprising at least one converter, for sensing a signal from the first
7 broadcasting system, the signal comprising the first program guide information;

8 a tuner, communicatively coupled to the antenna, for receiving a first program
9 guide, the first program guide comprising a default transmitting network identifier value
10 uniquely identifying the service network transmitting the first program guide; and

11 processor, coupled to the tuner, for determining a configuration of the receiver
12 station, and for generating a first program guide from the first program guide information
13 according to a comparison between the determined receiving station configuration and the
14 default transmitting network identifier.

1 9. The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the processor is communicatively
2 coupled to an input/output module for accepting a selection of receiver station
3 configurations from among a plurality of presented configurations, and wherein the
4 processor further comprises:

5 a first module for presenting the plurality of configurations to the subscriber; and

6 a second module for determining the receiving station configuration according to
7 the selected configuration.

1 10. The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the processor comprises:

2 a first module for determining a number of converters; and

3 a second module for determining the receiving station configuration according to
4 the number of converters.

1 11. The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the receiver further receives a message
2 from the broadcasting system indicating the receiving station configuration.

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1 12. In a broadcasting system having a plurality of service networks, each
2 broadcasting a set of programs and program guide information describing at least a
3 portion of the set of programs, an apparatus for presenting a program guide to a
4 subscriber, comprising:

5 means for determining a receiver station configuration;

6 means for receiving a first program guide information at the receiver station, the
7 first program guide information comprising a default transmitting network identifier value
8 uniquely identifying the service network transmitting the first program guide information;
9 and

10 means for generating a first program guide from the first program guide
11 information and presenting the first program guide, according to a comparison between
12 the determined receiving station configuration and the default transmitting network
13 identifier.

1 13. The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the means for determining the
2 receiving station configuration comprises:

3 means for presenting a plurality of configurations to the subscriber;

4 means for accepting a selection of configurations from among the plurality of
5 presented configurations; and

6 means for determining the receiving station configuration according to the
7 selected configuration.

1 14. The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein receiving station comprises at least
2 one converter communicatively coupled to a receiver and the means for determining a
3 receiving station configuration comprises:

4 means for determining a number of converters; and

5 means for determining the receiving station configuration according to the number
6 of converters.

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1 15. The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the means for determining a receiving
2 station configuration comprises:

3 means for receiving a message from the broadcasting system indicating the
4 receiving station configuration.

1 16. The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the means for presenting the first
2 program guide according to a comparison between the determined receiving station
3 configuration comprises:

4 means for comparing the determined receiving station configuration with the
5 default transmitting identifier; and

6 means for presenting the first program guide to the subscriber only if the receiving
7 station configuration indicates that the receiving station is configured to receive signals
8 from the first service network.

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1 17. The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein each of the programs in the first set of
2 programs is associated with a viewer channel, and the first program guide information
3 further comprises a transmitting network identifier associated with the viewer channel,
4 the transmitting network identifier value identifying a service network from among the
5 plurality of service networks transmitting the program associated with the viewer channel,
6 and the means for presenting the first program guide according to a comparison between
7 the determined receiving station configuration and the default transmitting network
8 identifier comprises:

9 (a) means for comparing the determined receiving station configuration and
10 the default transmitting network identifier;

11 (b) means for comparing the determined receiver configuration and the
12 transmitting network identifier; and

13 (c) means for generating the a first program guide from the first program
14 guide information and presenting the first program guide, according to the comparison
15 between the determined receiving station configuration and the default transmitting
16 network identifier, and the comparison between the determined receiving station and the
17 transmitting network identifier.

1 18. The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the means for comparing the
2 determined receiver configuration and the transmitting network identifier and the means
3 for generating the a first program guide from the first program guide information and
4 presenting the first program guide, according to the comparison between the determined
5 receiving station configuration and the default transmitting network identifier, and the
6 comparison between the determined receiving station and the transmitting network
7 identifier are operated only when the comparison between the determined receiver
8 configuration and the default transmitting network identifier indicates that the receiving
9 station is configured to receive signals from the first service network.

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